

SC Arts Commission
Board of Commissioners Meeting
College of Charleston School of Education, Health & Human Performance
Charleston, SC

Thursday, June 5, 2008

Members present Linda Stern, Bud Ferillo, Elizabeth Sowards, Henry Horowitz,
Barbara Nwokike

Members absent Noble Cooper, West Fraser, Sarah Lynn Hayes, Francis Gilbert

Staff present Susie Surkamer, Ken May, Rusty Sox, Jeanette Guinn

Call to order Chairman Linda Stern called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

Approval of Minutes Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2008 meeting and the March 5, 2008 conference call. Mr. Horowitz seconded and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report Ms. Surkamer presented the 3rd quarter financial report.

Motion Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the financial report. Ms. Nwokike seconded and the motion was approved.

Dr. Noble Cooper arrived at 11:36 a.m.

Sample Budget
Report

In response to a previous request by the board for more programmatic budget details in the financial report, Ms. Surkamer distributed a sample program-by-program report. Due to the agency's recent move to a new accounting system, she asked the board to review the sample report for its format rather than the figures it contains. In the future, this report could be presented as part of each quarter's financial report.

The board expressed satisfaction with the report. Ms. Stern complimented Ms. Surkamer and the accounting staff for their excellent job of budgeting and budget monitoring, and making budget issues easy for the board to interpret.

Verner Awards, Folk
Heritage Awards &
40th Anniversary

Members of the board commented on the strong attendance for the awards ceremony at the State House, the energy of the events, and

the excitement displayed by the Verner Award and Folk Heritage Award recipients.

Ms. Surkamer gave a wrap-up of the 40th Anniversary year of activities. The goal was to raise the visibility of the arts in South Carolina, not just the SCAC. Major milestones included the launch of the new agency logo, the first Statewide Arts Conference in almost ten years, videotaped messages from governors, the “40 Lists” project, the National Symphony Orchestra tour, the African American Voices exhibition from the State Art Collection, research and a publication about the agency’s history, and very good media coverage of anniversary events across the state.

Sarah Lynn Hayes arrived at 12:03 p.m.

Anniversary Poem

Mr. May read a poem he composed for the launch of the new logo, titled “Ode to An Old Logo.” The board requested that the poem be written into the minutes and printed in the new newsletter.

To an Old Logo

By Ken May

Some swear you represent a breaking wave,
An elemental force that shapes our state,
While others see you as a stylized “A,”
A modernist initial for our cause.

Not so: the very man, now bald and gray,
Who, in his youth, created your design,
Revealed to me that you’re a mother’s form,
Bending deep to nurture her dear child.

But, hey, who really cares? You’ve done your job,
On letterhead and envelope and card.
You’re dated, yes, a little awkward, sure,
Yet at a glance, we know just where you’re from,
And you evoke emotion without thought—
Anxiety, elation, or alarm.

Still, every second decade, third, or fourth,
It’s time to make a change, no matter what,
And so, old logo, with all thanks to you,
We say: Out with the old! In with the new!

FY 2009 Draft
Budget

Ms. Surkamer presented the draft agency budget for fiscal year 2008-2009. She explained that the budget includes \$585,000 in one-time funds recently approved by the General Assembly.

Motion

Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the 2009 budget. Dr. Cooper seconded and the motion was approved.

Grant Reviews

Arts in Education (AIE) – Mr. May explained that the AIE awards the board approved in March have been revised to add the \$585,000 in one-time funds allocated by the General Assembly. The increases were made by formula.

Motion

Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the revised awards for AIE grants, with the exception of the Rock Hill School District and the Arts Council of York County. Dr. Cooper seconded and the motion was approved.

Motion

Dr. Cooper moved to approve the revised awards for AIE grants for the Rock Hill School District and the Arts Council of York County. Mr. Ferillo seconded and the motion was approved with Dr. Hayes abstaining.

Annual Operating Support – Mr. May thanked the commissioners who attended the panel reviews of the Annual Operating Support grants. There was discussion about the positive value of attending those reviews.

There was discussion of feedback commissioners have received from constituents about the investment of time in completing the application versus the small amount of return in a grant award, and the need for staff to work with constituents to educate them about the grant process.

There was positive feedback for the review panel, its broad knowledge and fairness during the review process.

Mr. May emphasized that the staff does not consider the financial outcome of the FY09 grant awards ideal. The number of qualified applicants increased, while the available funds did not. Many high-scoring applicants will see their awards decrease in FY09. Staff worked out multiple funding scenarios and formulas, and the recommended outcome is believed to be the fairest approach.

Motion

Ms. Nwokike moved to approve the recommendations for Annual Operating Support, with the exception of Artisphere and the Arts

Council of Rock Hill and York County. Mr. Ferillo seconded and the motion was approved.

Motion Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the recommendations for Annual Operating Support for Artisphere and the Arts Council of Rock Hill and York County. Ms. Sowards seconded and the motion was approved with Mr. Horowitz and Dr. Hayes abstaining.

Statewide Organizations – Mr. May presented recommendations for operating grants to statewide organizations.

Motion Mr. Horowitz moved to approve the recommendations for statewide organizations. Ms. Nwokike seconded and the motion was approved.

Other Grants – Mr. May presented recommendations for Folklife and Traditional Arts grants, Cultural Tourism grants and Subgranting.

Ms. Sowards commented on her observation of the Folklife & Traditional Arts panel. The panel was impressed by the overall level of applicants, and they reflected well on the state and the SCAC.

Mr. Ferillo and Mr. Horowitz commented on the educational value of listening to panel reviews.

Motion Mr. Horowitz moved to approve the recommendations for Folklife & Traditional Arts grants. Dr. Hayes seconded and the motion was approved.

Motion Dr. Cooper moved to approve the recommendations for Cultural Tourism grants. Ms. Sowards seconded and the motion was approved with Mr. Horowitz and Dr. Hayes abstaining.

Motion Mr. Ferillo moved to approve the recommendations for Subgranting. Ms. Sowards seconded and the motion was approved with Dr. Hayes abstaining.

Fellowships Action on Fellowships was deferred to a later meeting.

Joint Meeting with SC Arts Foundation Board Ms. Stern reminded commissioners of the joint meeting with the board of the SC Arts Foundation at 3:45 p.m.

Spoletto Picks Ms. Guinn shared some opportunities for board members to participate in Spoleto and Piccolo Spoleto events during their time in Charleston.

Adjourn Mr. Horowitz moved to adjourn. Mr. Ferillo seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Friday, June 6, 2008

The board of commissioners reconvened on Friday, June 6, 2008 at the Francis Marion Hotel in Charleston, South Carolina.

Members Present Linda Stern, Bud Ferillo, Elizabeth Sowards, Barbara Nwokike, Henry Horowitz, Sarah Lynn Hayes, Noble Cooper

Members Absent West Fraser, Francis Gilbert

Staff Present Susie Surkamer, Ken May, Rusty Sox, Jeanette Guinn, Katie Fox

Call to Order Chairman Linda Stern called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

Chairman's Report Ms. Stern reported on her work with the SC Arts Foundation to help plan and present the 40th Anniversary Celebration on May 7. She also represented the SCAC at National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. At the state level, she was very active in contacting members of the General Assembly to advocate for the agency's 2009 budget.

Spoletto Festival USA Presentation Nigel Redden, General Director of Spoleto Festival USA, joined the meeting. He thanked the SCAC for its support of the festival and reviewed some highlights of the 2008 program, including the renovation of the Memminger Auditorium, assisted by a SCAC Facilities Grant.

Mr. Redden noted that Spoleto had lost its line item (\$246,000) in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism budget. There was discussion of how that loss had impacted the festival.

Piccolo Spoleto Presentation Ellen Dressler Moryl, Executive Director of City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, joined the meeting. She discussed highlights of the 2008 festival, and thanked the board for its support.

Commissioners' Reports Ms. Nwokike reported that she also represented SCAC at National Arts Advocacy Day in Washington. She has also visited many arts

events and venues in the tri-county area over the last several months.

Mr. Horowitz reported on a meeting of Greenville arts groups with Joy Young, SCAC county coordinator, to discuss grants, application processes, etc. He also has been very involved with Artisphere, a Greenville visual and performing arts festival, which attracted 125,000 people this year.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Surkamer will be going to Washington, DC to attend an Arts Education Partnership forum and to meet with the staff of VSA arts. She will be trying to leverage some additional VSA funds for South Carolina.

Ms. Surkamer and Mr. May recently attended a meeting in Cleveland with other communities involved with LINC (Leveraging Investments in Creativity). LINC has notified SCAC of a \$100,000 implementation grant for its plan to address conditions for artists in South Carolina. SCAC will need to find matching funds for this grant.

Patrick VanHuss, president of the SC Arts Foundation, will be hosting a reception for SCAC staff at his home in July to thank them for their support of the SCAF's activities. Staff will also be recognized at that time for state service milestones.

Ms. Surkamer will be taping a 30-second message for the National Council on the Arts. South Carolina was one of only 6 states asked to tape these messages.

Year in Review

Ms. Surkamer, Mr. May and Mr. Sox reviewed some significant accomplishments for fiscal year 2008.

Commissioners complimented the agency on its communication activities. Ms. Surkamer distributed the communications director's project proposal for the newsletter. There was interest in using the newsletter to acknowledge legislators who have helped the arts.

Policy Revision

There was discussion of the need for changing agency policy to give the board the option to elect an additional member to the executive committee bringing the total number of committee members to four. The executive committee is currently comprised of the chair, vice chair and one member from the board.

Motion

Dr. Cooper moved to revise the agency policy concerning the executive committee to allow the board to elect two members to the executive committee and expand the requirement for a quorum

of the executive committee to three. Mr. Horowitz seconded and the motion was approved.

- Motion Dr. Cooper moved to nominate Dr. Hayes to the executive committee. Ms. Nwokike seconded and the motion was approved.
- Election of Officers Dr. Cooper moved to re-elect current officers and executive committee members to another term: Linda Stern, president; Bud Ferillo, vice president; West Fraser, executive committee. Ms. Sowards seconded and the motion was approved.
- Motion Mr. Ferillo moved that the board enter executive session to discuss the executive director's performance evaluation. Dr. Hayes seconded and the motion was approved.
- Executive Session The board entered executive session at 10:50 a.m. and remained in executive session until 11:40 a.m. No votes were taken.
- Motion Mr. Ferillo moved to end executive session. Mr. Horowitz seconded and the motion was approved.
- Mr. Ferillo and Dr. Hayes left the meeting at 11:40 a.m.
- Strategic Plan Ms. Surkamer, Mr. May and Mr. Sox presented the themes of the new strategic plan for the Arts Commission. There was discussion of the challenges and implications of the plan for the agency.
- Motion Mr. Horowitz moved to approve the strategic plan. Ms. Sowards seconded and the motion was approved.
- Program Presentation Katie Fox, SCAC arts coordinator, presented information for the board on SCAC's work with the Clemson Youth Learning Institute and the New Audience Road Show.
- Adjourn There was no other business. Dr. Cooper moved to adjourn. Ms. Nwokike seconded and the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.